

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00  
INRE-00 ICAE-00 SP-02 AID-05 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-07  
OMB-01 CEA-01 L-03 H-01 PA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00  
FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04  
SIL-01 /080 W

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O 171129Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1769

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 MOSCOW 10860

DEPT PASS USDA/FAS/WASHDC

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR, EPAP, OVIP, UR, US

SUBJECT: SECRETARY BERGLAND'S VISIT TO USSR

REF: MOSCOW 10855

SUMMARY. IN SEVEN DAY VISIT TO SOVIET UNION, SECRETARY BERGLAND HAD OPPORTUNITY TO CONVEY TO HIGH LEVEL SOVIET OFFICIALS OUR MAJOR AGRICULTURAL POLICY POSITIONS AND TO INFORM HIMSELF ON CURRENT AGRICULTURAL SITUATION. AMBASSADOR TOON PARTICIPATED IN ALL MEETINGS AND ALSO ACCOMPANIED THE SECRETARY ON THE ENTIRE ITINERARY. CALLS WERE MADE IN MOSCOW ON THREE MINISTERS (AGRICULTURE, PROCUREMENT AND FOREIGN TRADE) AS WELL AS KIRILLIN, WHO IS BOTH CHAIRMAN OF THE STATE COMMITTEE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. THE SECRETARY WAS ALSO RECEIVED BY PREMIER KOSYGIN.  
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SOVIET READINESS TO ARRANGE SO MANY HIGH LEVEL CALLS, SUCH EXTENSIVE TRAVEL IN THE COUNTRY AND PARTICULARLY THE APPOINTMENT WITH KOSYGIN REFLECT THE IMPORTANCE GIVEN BY THE LEADERSHIP TO BILATERAL RELATIONS IN AGRICULTURE AND THE GRAIN TRADE. BY SOVIET STANDARDS, PRESS COVERAGE OF THE VISIT WAS ALSO GOOD. NO DEFINITIVE INFORMATION WAS OBTAINED ON 1978 CROP PROSPECTS OR ON 1978/79 GRAIN

REQUIREMENTS. LATE PLANTING SITUATION AND DELAYED DEVELOPMENT OF WINTER GRAINS IN UKRAINE WERE CONFIRMED AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITIONS IN TSELINOGRAD WERE FOUND TO BE EXCELLENT.

1. PRINCIPAL APPOINTMENTS IN USSR WERE WITH V.K. MESYATS, USSR MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE; A.N. KOSYGIN, CHAIRMAN, USSR COUNCIL OF MINISTERS (SEPARATE TELEGRAM); V.A. KIRILLIN, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, USSR COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND CHAIRMAN, STATE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; N.S. PATOLICHEV USSR MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE; G.S. ZOLOTUKHIN, USSR MINISTER OF PROCUREMENTS; AND A.P. LYASHKO, CHAIRMAN, UKRAINIAN COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. SECRETARY BERGLAND ALSO MET WITH AGRICULTURAL AND OTHER GOVERNMENTAL OFFICIALS IN KIEV, TSELINOGRAD AND LENINGRAD; VISITED FARMS IN THE UKRAINE AND MOSCOW OBLAST; AND MET WITH THE RESPECTIVE DIRECTORS OF MIRONOVSKIY WHEAT BREEDING INSTITUTE (UKRAINE), ALL-UNION GRAIN INSTITUTE AT SHORTANDY (KAZAKHSTAN), AND VAVILOV ALL-UNION PLANT SCIENCE INSTITUTE (LENINGRAD).

2. IN HIS TALKS, SECRETARY BERGLAND STRESSED: 1. U.S. COMMITMENT TO INVESTIGATE THE FEASIBILITY OF INTERNATIONAL COMMODITY AGREEMENTS, AND SPECIFICALLY OUR INTEREST IN DEVELOPING A WHEAT AGREEMENT; 2. DESIRABILITY FOR SOVIET PARTICIPATION IN ANY SUCH INTERNATIONAL GRAINS ARRANGEMENT  
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3. DESIRE TO AVOID EXTREMES IN AGRICULTURAL PRICES AND THE CREATION OF U.S. GRAIN RESERVES TO ACHIEVE THIS; 4. NEED FOR BETTER INFORMATION ON WORLD CROPS AND TRADE IN BOTH THE CURRENT YEAR AND 5-10 YEARS AHEAD; 5. U.S. INTEREST IN GRAIN AND SOYBEAN TRADE WITH USSR; AND 6. DESIRE TO MOVE TOWARD LONGER TERM JOINT RESEARCH IN OUR AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION EXCHANGES.

3. MINISTER MESYATS CONCURRED IN DESIRE FOR LONGER-TERM JOINT RESEARCH. HE SUGGESTED THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY HATHAWAY AND DEPUTY MINISTER RUNOV SHOULD WORK OUT AND AGREE ON THE LONGER-TERM PROPOSALS. SECRETARY BERGLAND INDICATED THAT THIS SHOULD INCLUDE PROPOSALS ON CROP FORECASTING. MESYATS SAID HE BELIEVED THAT USSR FULLY GIVES THE U.S. SUCH REQUIRED AGRICULTURAL INFORMATION AS IS AVAILABLE. THE USSR FORECAST IS THE PLAN. HE SUGGESTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AND NASA SHOULD COOPERATE ON FORECASTING. SECRETARY BERGLAND NOTED THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO REEXAMINE PAST POSITIONS AND DIFFICULTIES. HE SAID THAT WE NEEDED A MORE SCIENTIFIC WAY OF CROP FORECASTING -- PERHAPS THE JOINT DEVELOPMENT OF CROP MODELS.

4. MINISTER ZOLOTUKHIN SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN SOME PAST PROBLEMS IN OUR GRAIN TRADE -- INSECT INFESTATION AND CRACKED CORN -- BUT THAT ON THE WHOLE, TRADE NOW IS GOING WELL. SECRETARY BERGLAND SAID THAT HE WANTED TO KNOW IF ANY PROBLEMS CAME UP RELATED TO OUR GRAIN INSPECTION. THE SECRETARY SAID WE WERE INTERESTED IN LONGER-TERM PROSPECTS FOR OUR SOYBEAN TRADE WITH THE USSR AND THAT WE COULD

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O 171129Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1770  
INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
AMEMBASSY OSLO  
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SHIFT ANOTHER 5-10 MILLION HECTARES INTO SOYBEANS IF WE KNEW THAT DEMAND WOULD BE SUSTAINED. WE WOULD LIKE A LONG-TERM TRADE FORECAST. HE SAID WE WOULD BE GLAD TO WORK WITH OUR PRIVATE FEED INDUSTRY TO HELP SOVIETS WITH RATIONS. ZOLOTUKHIN SAID THAT SOYBEAN PURCHASE COULD NOT BE RULED OUT AND THAT MAYBE SUCH PURCHASES COULD BEST BE HANDLED THROUGH AN AGREEMENT AS WITH GRAINS, BUT THAT PRICE IS A MAJOR FACTOR IN THEIR PURCHASE DECISIONS. ZOLOTUKHIN NOTED HIS INTEREST IN COOPERATION WITH THE U.S. FEED GRAINS COUNCIL AND SIMILAR ORGANIZATIONS. HE SAID THAT MODERNIZATION OF THEIR FLOUR AND FEED INDUSTRY IS UNDERWAY. HE GAVE TOTAL USSR GRAIN STORAGE CAPACITY AT 300 MILLION TONS, INCLUDING 150 MILLION IN THE MINISTRY OF PROCUREMENTS. THE 1978 GRAIN PROCUREMENT PLAN IS 90 MILLION TONS. SECRETARY BERGLAND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT MINISTER ZOLOTUKHIN OR HIS ASSOCIATES COULD ATTEND THE

PLANNED SYMPOSIUM IN THE U.S. IN JULY ON GRAIN ELEVATOR  
DUST EXPLOSIONS. ZOLOTUKHIN ADMITTED THERE HAD BEEN  
SEVERAL SERIOUS ELEVATOR EXPLOSIONS IN USSR.  
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5. KEY POINT MADE BY MINISTER PATOLICHEV WAS THAT USSR  
WOULD BE WORTHY TRADE PARTNER IN THE FUTURE. HE RELATED  
THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE GRAIN AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS AND  
HIS PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT. SECRETARY BERGLAND EMPHASIZED  
OUR INTEREST IN SOVIET GRAIN AND SOYBEAN PURCHASE INTEN-  
TIONS OVER THE NEXT 5-10 YEARS SO THAT WE COULD INTRODUCE  
APPROPRIATE POLICIES. HE EMPHASIZED THAT WE WOULD NOT  
AGAIN SELL GRAIN BELOW THE COST OF PRODUCTION. HE  
EXPRESSED HOPE THAT INTERNATIONAL WHEAT NEGOTIATIONS WOULD  
BE SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDED.

6. IN THE DISCUSSIONS WITH UKRAINIAN CHAIRMAN KYASHKO,  
SECRETARY BERGLAND PRIMARILY EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR U.S.  
AND SOVIET SCIENTISTS TO WORK TOGETHER ON A CROP FORE-  
CASTING SYSTEM. LYASHKO GAVE A RELATIVELY POSITIVE  
RESPONSE THAT IT IS IMPORTANT TO WORK TOGETHER MORE  
ACCURATELY TO PREDICT THE HARVEST.

7. THE MEETING WITH KIRILLIN IN HIS CAPACITY OF SCIENCE  
AND TECHNOLOGY COORDINATOR WAS GENERAL IN NATURE, BUT THE  
SECRETARY MENTIONED THE NEED FOR BETTER ACCESS OF U.S.  
AGRICULTURAL TEAMS TO AREAS IN THE SOVIET UNION. HE ALSO  
RECOMMENDED JOINT WORK IN CROP AND WEATHER FORECASTING.  
KIRILLIN AGREED THAT THERE SHOULD BE MORE COOPERATION BY  
THE TWO COUNTRIES IN THESE FIELDS. (SEP TEL FOLLOWS ON  
NON-AGRICULTURAL COMMENTS BY KIRILLIN).

8. GRAIN CONSULTATIONS. DETAILS ON THE REGULAR BI-ANNUAL  
GRAIN CONSULTATIONS WERE REPORTED IN REFTEL. THEY WERE  
SCHEDULED DURING THE SECRETARY'S VISIT SO THAT HE COULD  
DIRECT THESE CONSULTATIONS PERSONALLY, BUT THE ACTUAL  
NEGOTIATION WAS CONDUCTED, AS USUAL, BY ASSISTANT  
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SECRETARY HATHAWAY FOR THE AMERICAN SIDE AND DEPUTY  
MINISTER GORDEYEV. THE SOVIETS WERE FORTHCOMING, MORE  
SO THAN IN PAST, ON CURRENT YEAR GRAIN TRADE DATA, TAKING  
CARE NOT TO PRECLUDE ADDITIONAL PURCHASES OF U.S. GRAIN  
ABOVE THE PRESENT APPROXIMATE 13 MILLION LEVEL. U.S.  
AND SOVIET TRADE STATISTICS OF U.S. GRAIN FOR 1977/78 WERE

VERY CLOSE. NO INDICATION AS TO 1978-79 GRAIN REQUIREMENT WAS OBTAINED.

9. CONDITION OF CROPS. BEYOND PLAN FIGURES, WHICH AS USUAL, U.S. EXPERTS CONSIDER OPTIMISTIC, THE SOVIETS DID NOT PROVIDE ANY CROP ESTIMATES. IT IS OF COURSE TOO EARLY TO MAKE ANY RELIABLE PREDICTIONS. THEY ADMITTED READILY TO THE FACT THAT GRAIN PLANTING WAS VERY LATE IN EUROPEAN USSR AND THAT WINTER CROPS IN THESE AREAS WERE MUCH DELAYED. LYASHKO (UKRAINE) STATED THAT WINTER WHEAT YIELDS COULD STILL BE GOOD IF NORMAL WARM WEATHER PREVAILED IN JUNE. HE INDICATED THAT WINTERKILL HAD BEEN "NORMAL" (IN THE 15 TO 20 PERCENT RANGE), BUT CITED AN EVEN LOWER PERCENTAGE OF AROUND 8. HE ALSO STATED THAT 1978 UKRAINIAN GRAIN PRODUCTION COULD, BASIS PRESENT CONDITIONS, BE "WITHIN 10 PERCENT PLUS OR MINUS OF AVERAGE". TSELINOGRAD SOIL MOISTURES ARE EXCELLENT. THEY RECEIVED UNUSUALLY GOOD PRECIPITATION IN APRIL.

10. THE SHORT CONCLUDING MEETING WITH MINISTER MESYATS CLOSED ON A GOOD TONE. BOTH THE SECRETARY AND MESYATS CONFIRMED A DESIRE FOR CONTINUING AND INTENSIFIED EFFORTS BY THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES TO COOPERATE IN THE AGRICULTURAL FIELD. MESYATS' WILLINGNESS TO EXPAND LONGER TERM JOINT RESEARCH IN WHICH THE U.S. SIDE IS INTERESTED WAS, AS EXPECTED, TIED TO RECEIVING SIDE PAYS. THE SECRETARY REPEATED HIS INVITATION FOR A RECIPROCAL VISIT TO THE U.S. THIS YEAR BY MESYATS. THE MINISTER SAID ALTHOUGH HE APPRECIATED THE INVITATION AND DESIRED VERY MUCH TO ACT ON IT, HE COULD NOT AT THIS TIME BE CERTAIN

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O 171129Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1771

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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THAT HE COULD MAKE THE VISIT THIS YEAR. THE SECRETARY  
MENTIONED THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY HATHAWAY WILL BE  
WRITING DEPUTY MINISTER RUNOV SHORTLY ON THE SUBJECT OF  
CROP FORECASTING AND OTHER DETAILS NOT COVERED DUE TIME  
LIMITATIONS. DR. HATHAWAY ALSO PROMISED TO BE IN TOUCH  
WITH MR. RUNOV ON RAMIFICATIONS OF THE NEW U.S. GRAIN  
RESERVE PROGRAM ON US/SOVIET AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS.  
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## Message Attributes

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